Honors Biology Syllabus

Teacher: Dr. Gregg Blotner, Room I-53
Contact Information: E-mail: blotnerg@fultonschools.org
Help Times: Monday and Wednesday afternoons 3:35pm and 4:05pm or by appointment.

Textbook: Biology (Pearson Realize) Miller & Levine (2019). A replacement fee of $103.97 will apply if the text is lost or damaged.

Course Description: Biology is a highly diverse course that introduces and explores concepts involving the scientific method, biological chemistry, cell biology, genetics, evolution, and ecology of microbes, plants and animals. The goal of this course is to provide students with a fundamental knowledge base in each of these fields to better enable them to succeed at higher levels of scientific inquiry and exploration. The laboratory emphasizes observation, experimentation, data analysis, and critical thinking.

Materials Needed:
1. Device (once distributed) brought charged every day
2. Depending on devices—might also have a notebook
3. Pens/Pencils

Biology Help Times: Students are encouraged to attend Biology help sessions. These are sessions set aside by the Biology teachers to offer assistance in completing assignments and better understanding content. **ALL** teachers are able to provide assistance to any Biology student. The following times have been set up—please feel free to go to any of the teachers listed below for assistance—sometimes it helps to hear something explained from another person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Morning (7:40-8:10)</th>
<th>Afternoon (3:35-4:05)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Ms. Perling (J-108)</td>
<td>Dr. Blotner (I-53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Mr. Kuhn (J-106)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Blotner (I-53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Ms. Perling (J-108)</td>
<td>Mr. Kuhn (J-106)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Communication
Students may always stop by my room during student hours or email me at my email address. I normally stop responding to student emails at 7PM. Grades can be found on Infinite Campus. If you have outside of school concerns about access to the internet, please see me privately.

Classroom Rules:
1. Be respectful toward others at all times.
2. Class begins when you enter the room. You should come in and begin your warm-up question as soon as you enter.
3. Please take care of restroom needs before class.
4. Do not bring candy, gum, drinks, etc. into the classroom. If food or drinks are brought into the room, it will be discarded.
5. Safety in the lab is a must. There will be no horseplay in the lab at any time.
6. All rules and regulations in the student handbook apply in this class.
7. Tardies: You are expected to be in your seat and ready to work each day when the bell rings.
   1. First offense: Warning
   2. Second and Third offense: Private detention for 30 minutes before school and contact parents
   3. Fourth and Fifth offense: Administrative referral
Phones and Headphones
- Headphones and phones should not be visible during class. No phones on your desk. Turn off notifications.
- If you need your phone, I will let you know when you can access it.
- No phones leave the room during bathroom breaks.

School Device Etiquette:

**Students must:**
- Come to class with their device fully charged, with the charger and stylus.
- Only use device for class work/notes.
- Teacher can monitor the device *randomly*.
- You **CANNOT** record or take pictures of anyone or anything in the classroom without expressed permission.

Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook P. 36 Technology Offenses 18 A,B,C,D,E
- Technology/computer misuse (inappropriate internet use, disabling, etc.)/computer/tampering/trespass/hacking/altering hard drives.
- Refusal to comply with school rules or reasonable directions or commands of school staff regarding use of technology and/or visual recording devices without permission.
- Consequence Range: Local interventions up to 10 days OSS.

Course Grading

**Course Weights**
- Summative (40%)
  - Cumulative monthly tests (3 per semester)
  - Performance Assessments (1 per unit)
  - Formal Lab Write Ups (1 per semester)
- Formative (40%)
  - Classwork
  - Quizzes
  - Homework
- Final Exam (20%)
- Progress Reporting
  - Non-graded markers such as safety contract, test corrections, etc.
- Homework
  - Non-graded tracking of homework (if needed)

Course Pacing (Tentative)
Unit 0 - Science Practices: August 12 to August 23
Unit 1 - Ecology: August 26 to October 11
  - Test 1: September 30
Unit 2 - Cells: October 14 to November 20
  - Test 2: October 31
Unit 3 - Genetics: November 1 to January 10
  - Test 3: December 6
Unit 4 - Evolution: January 13 to February 21
  - Test 4: January 31
Unit 5 - Diversity: February 24 to March 12
  - Test 5: February 28
Exam Review: May 1 to May 8

Course Requirements

**OneNote Class Notebook**
- All classwork will be done through Microsoft Class Notebook
- All work is expected to be completed during class (so devices are necessary **every day**)
• Any work not completed in class must be completed by the student on their own time
• Notebook checks will happen periodically. I will check for both completion and accuracy.

Quizzes
• You will have either a quiz, notebook check or test once a week throughout the semester. These are graded quizzes and are over the material since the previous assessment. These quizzes can be retaken once each after you have reviewed your initial quiz and determined your learning gaps.
• Lab Quizzes - Some lab experiments will be assessed through a quiz. You will be given collected data and asked specific questions about your findings.

Summative Tests
• You will have 3 tests each semester on the last school day of each month. All tests are cumulative back to the beginning of the year. Effort will be made to construct tests based on 60% new/40% old material breakdown.
• Summative Test Recovery Policy
  o All missing assignments must be completed before a student is eligible for recovery.
  o If your cumulative average at the time of the test is below a 79, you are eligible for recovery up to 100% on the test.
    ▪ Go to your teacher during help times and find out your missed questions. Have a conversation with your teacher about your areas of concern.
    ▪ Complete test corrections for your missed questions exactly as specified in the Test Correction Guidelines.
    ▪ You have the following periods of time to complete BOTH test corrections and the make-up test.
      • Test 1: September 30, Recovery Period Ends: November 5
      • Test 2: October 31, Recovery Period Ends: December 6
      • Test 3: December 6, Recovery Period Ends: December 16
  ▪ All test make ups will be completed through Illuminate. You MUST have your device in order to make up the test.
    • Dr. Blotner: Monday after school 3:40 to 4:40 in room I-53
    • Ms. Perling: Wednesday before school 7:10 to 8:10 in room J-108
    • Mr. Kuhn: Thursday after school from 3:40 to 4:40 in room J-106
  ▪ You MUST sign up for your test make up using the form on Google Classroom. Sign ups must be entered the FRIDAY before your make up week. For example, you are taking the make up with Ms. Perling on Wednesday morning. You complete the Google form the Friday before that Wednesday.

Quiz Retakes
• Student who scores below what they expected can retake the quiz if...
  o Student comes in for help prior to retake
  o Student completes the reservation Microsoft Form located as a tab in Microsoft Teams
• Quiz retakes are in the morning
• The retake score will stand as the final score for the quiz. Please close those learning gaps before retaking a quiz.
• Any quiz can be retaken during the active 6 weeks. After six weeks, original quiz grades stand.
• Only 1 retake possible.
• Retake opportunities end 10 days before the end of the semester.

Labs and Experimentation
We will perform 10 lab experiments this year. Four of these labs will require formal CERA reporting (WU). All others will require some other Informal Lab (IL) format of analysis. During the informal labs you will work alone to answer specific questions using collected class lab data (provided). Each CERA report will have an initial deadline, revision and final deadline. Written feedback will be given after the initial deadline and students will have a week to revise. Here is the tentative list.
Performance Assessments
Performance assessments are alternatives to paper/pencil tests that demonstrate learning.

- Ecology - Owl Pellet Lab
- Cells - Cell Respiration
- Genetics - Lego Lab Mutations
- Evolution - Candy Bar Phylogeny
- Diversity - Rat Dissection

Laboratory Time:
The instructor reserves the right to remove any student that is a safety hazard from the lab. If a student is removed from the lab, the student will receive a zero for the lab day. No student may participate in lab without passing the safety quiz and turning in a safety contract signed by the student and their parent or guardian. If a student is not allowed to participate in a lab for this reason, he/she will receive a zero for that lab and may come in the morning for an alternate assignment.

Make up labs will only be given with an excused absence. Make up labs must be conducted within the week of the original lab date. If the student cannot make up the lab the student will be given an alternate assignment that they must complete to replace the NHI (zero).

Student Initiated Recovery - School Policy
If you have a 79% or below in the course, the recovery policy is as follows:

- Step 1: Student initiates a conversation with the teacher.
- Step 2: Student turns in ALL missing assignments. Late work will be penalized 10 points.
- Step 3: If average remains below an 80%, student will meet with the teacher to choose which assessment(s) they would like to retake. Students MUST attend the teacher’s office hours prior to the assessment retake.
- All work must be completed at least 10 days before the end of the semester. Late work will NOT be accepted after this deadline.

Honor Code and Device Etiquette - Fulton County Honor Code Policy
As a community that values academic honesty and seeks to provide the highest levels of learning for students, the Centennial administration, faculty, parents, and students do not tolerate cheating.

As stated in Fulton County Board of Education Policy, cheating includes:
- Copying or borrowing from another source and submitting it as one’s own work – including plagiarizing sources from the internet
- Seeking or accepting unauthorized assistance from anyone on tests, projects, or other assignments
- Providing or receiving test questions in advance without permission
- Working collaboratively with other students when individual work is expected – including homework
- Other offenses as determined by administration

Consequences for copying or providing answers on an assignment which should have been completed by an individual student:
- First offense – zero on the assignment; teacher requires assignment completion for 70%; assignments not redone will remain a zero
- Second offense – zero on the assignment; parent notification; teacher requires assignment completion for 50%; assignments not redone will remain a zero
- Third and further offenses – zero on the assignment; parent notification; disciplinary referral to administrator; teacher requires assignment completion for 50%; assignments not redone will remain a zero

Consequences for plagiarism on a research paper or project; receiving or giving answers during a test or quiz:
- First offense – zero on the paper, project, or test; parent notification; teacher requires the original or an alternate assignment to be completed for 50%; time allowed will be half the original time assigned; assignments not redone will remain a zero
- Second and further offenses – zero on the paper, project, or test; parent notification; disciplinary referral to administrator; dismissal from leadership positions; exclusion or dismissal from honor societies; teacher requires the original or an alternate assignment to be completed for 50%; time allowed will be half the original time allowed; assignments not redone will remain a zero

The following violations shall result in immediate administrative referral and exclusion or expulsion from all honor societies: cheating on a final exam; altering or forging grades, gradebooks, progress reports, report cards, or academic records; fabricating data or signatures; theft of a test or other school resources. Students who commit an honor code violation could also lose leadership positions in clubs or organizations.

Consequences will be applied if cheating occurs on any work submitted by a Centennial student in an event, competition, or contest in which he represents the school system. Additional possible consequences may include exclusion from interscholastic activities and extracurricular activities, as determined by the administrator.

Course Outline: Biology is divided into the following major units with several forms of assessment in each unit. Students will be responsible for reading all chapters outlined below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>TOPICS OF STUDY</th>
<th>ESTIMATED TIME</th>
<th>STANDARD</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Science</td>
<td>Introduction to science concepts e.g. variables, graphing and safety</td>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to assess the interdependence of all organisms on one another and their environment</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>SB5. a, b, c, d &amp; e</td>
<td>Chapter 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cells</td>
<td>Obtain, evaluate and communicate information to analyze the nature of the relationships between structures and functions in living cells</td>
<td>7 weeks</td>
<td>SB1. a, b, c, d &amp; e</td>
<td>Chapter 8, 9 and 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze how genetic information is expressed in cells</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>SB2. a, b &amp; c</td>
<td>Chapter 11, 13, 14 and 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molecular Genetics</td>
<td>Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze how biological traits are passed on to successive generations</td>
<td>5 weeks</td>
<td>SB3. a, b &amp; c</td>
<td>Chapter 12 and 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mendelian Genetics</td>
<td>Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze how biological traits are passed on to successive generations</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>SB6. a, b, c, d &amp; e</td>
<td>Chapter 17, 18, 19 and 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolution</td>
<td>Obtain, evaluate and communicate information to illustrate the organization of interacting systems within single-celled and multi-celled organisms</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>SB4. a, b &amp; c</td>
<td>Chapter 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25</td>
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By signing below, I am indicating that I have read and understand the Honors Biology Syllabus and will be accountable for the information and guidelines therein.

Student Name (please print) ___________________________________ Date__________

Student Signature _________________________________________________________

I have looked over the expectations for my child and I agree to work in partnership with Ms. Perling to ensure my child’s academic success. I will contact you should I have any questions or concerns throughout the semester. I understand that my child is responsible for adhering to these rules and procedures.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) ____________________________ Date__________

Parent Signature __________________________________________________________

Parent E-mail ____________________________________________________________

Daytime Number ________________________    Evening Number _________________

Preferred Method of Contact ________________________________________________